IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A gas generating agent wherein the gas generating agent is a tubular molded article formed with a non-azide-based composition, and both ends of the molded article are squashed, thereby forming non-squashed parts and squashed parts, the squashed parts having an external thickness less than the external thickness of the non-squashed parts, and an inner diameter d of an internal space of the molded article being less in the squashed parts than in the non-squashed parts, whereby said molded article, upon ignition, burns at one rate followed by burning at a faster rate.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The gas generating agent as recited in Claim 1, wherein an outer diameter D of the molded article of the gas generating agent is from 1.4mm to 4mm, a length L thereof is from 1.5mm to 8mm, and [[an]] the inner diameter d of an internal space of the molded article in the non-squashed parts is from 0.3mm to 1.2mm.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The gas generating agent as recited in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein time T(ms) from the start-up of a tank pressure to the attainment of a tank maximum pressure P(kPa) is from 20 ms to 100 ms, and a pressure-time curve is traced like the letter S.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The gas generating agent as recited in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the non-azide-based composition comprises a nitrogen-containing organic compound, an oxidizing agent, a slag forming agent, and a binder.

Claim 6 (Original): The gas generating agent as recited in Claim 5, wherein the non-azide-based composition has a combination of the nitrogen-containing organic compound ranging from 32.5% by weight to 60% by weight, the oxidizing agent ranging from 35% by weight to 65% by weight, the slag forming agent ranging from 0.5% by weight to 15% by weight, and the binder ranging from 0.5% by weight to 15% by weight.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The gas generating agent as recited in Claim 5, wherein the nitrogen-containing organic compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a tetrazole derivative and a guanidine derivative.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The gas generating agent as recited in Claim 5, wherein the nitrogen-containing organic compound ~~contains~~ comprises at least one of guanidine nitrate, nitroguanidine, and 5-aminotetrazole; the oxidizing agent ~~contains~~ comprises at least one of strontium nitrate, basic copper nitrate, phase-stabilized ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate, and ammonium perchlorate; the slag forming agent ~~contains~~ comprises at least one of silica, acid clay, and silicon nitride; and the binder ~~contains~~ comprises at least one of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and polyacrylamide.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The gas generating agent as recited in Claim 8, wherein the nitrogen-containing organic compound ~~contains~~ comprises guanidine nitrate ranging from 32.5% by weight to 60% by weight; the oxidizing agent ~~contains~~ comprises strontium nitrate or basic copper nitrate ranging from 35% by weight to 65% by weight; the slag forming agent ~~contains~~ comprises acid clay ranging from 0.5% by weight to 15% by weight; and the binder ~~contains~~ comprises at least one of polyacrylamide, hydroxypropyl

methylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, graphite, and silicon dioxide ranging from 0.5 % by weight to 15% by weight.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A process for producing a gas generating agent tubularly molded so as to squash both ends thereof, comprising the steps of passing a tubular molded article of a gas generating agent being wet through a gap between a pair of molding gears rotated so that mutual convex teeth of the molding gears face each other; squashing the molded article at predetermined intervals by means of the convex teeth; and cutting the molded article in such a way as to fold the molded article at squashed concave parts thereof and drying resultant pieces.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A process for producing a gas generating agent, comprising the steps of passing a tubular molded article of a gas generating agent being wet through a gap between a pair of molding gears rotated so that mutual convex teeth of the molding gears face each other; squashing the molded article at predetermined intervals by means of the convex teeth; drying the molded article; and cutting the molded article.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A process for producing the gas generating agent of Claim 11 wherein both ends thereof are squashed.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A process for producing the gas generating agent of Claim 11 or Claim 12 wherein the molded article is cut in such a way as to be folded at squashed concave parts, and then classification is performed.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 1.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 2.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 3.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 4.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 5.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 6.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 7.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 8.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): An air-bag gas generator using the gas generating agent of Claim 9.